

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY, VETERANS AFFAIRS,  
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## MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Subcommittee on National Security, Veterans Affairs, and  
International Relations  
Members of the Subcommittee on Civil Service and Agency Organization

From: Dr. R. Nicholas Palarino

Date: June 10, 2002

Subject: Supplemental Information for June 11, 2002 Subcommittee hearing

This memorandum provides supplemental information and a revised witness list for the hearing on **Tuesday, June 11, 2002** entitled, *Combating Terrorism: Improving the Federal Response*. The morning session of the hearing will begin at **9:30 a.m. in room 2154 Rayburn House Office Building**. An afternoon session is scheduled to begin at **1:00 p.m.**

The initial purpose of the hearing was to examine the bill, H.R. 4660, *The National Homeland Security and Combating Terrorism Act of 2002*, introduced to establish a Department of Homeland Security and the National Office for Combating Terrorism. The bill proposes to reorganize the federal counterterrorism structure. On June 6, 2002, President Bush proposed to Congress the creation of a new Department of Homeland Security, transforming and realigning government activities into a single department whose primary mission is to protect the United States of America (A summary of this proposal follows and a detailed description is attached). The purpose of the June 11, 2001 hearing has expanded to include an examination H.R. 4660 and the President's June 6, 2001 proposal.

### **H.R. 4660, *The National Homeland Security and Combating Terrorism Act of 2002*.**

H.R. 4660<sup>1</sup> is a proposal to reorganize the federal government to address the terrorist threat. The bill establishes a Department of National Homeland Security as a new cabinet agency. The new Department would incorporate the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the US Customs Service (Department of Treasury), law enforcement elements of the Immigration and

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<sup>1</sup> House of Representatives 4660, *The National Homeland Security and Combating Terrorism Act of 2002*, May 2, 2002, <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query>.

Naturalization Service (Department of Justice), the US Coast Guard (Department of Transportation), the Critical Infrastructure Assurance Office and the National Infrastructure Protection Center (Department of Commerce), the National Domestic Preparedness Office (Department of Justice), and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (Department of Agriculture) into one agency.

The bill also establishes a number of directorates within the cabinet-level department: Directorate of Critical Infrastructure Protection, Directorate of Emergency Preparedness and Response, Directorate of Prevention. The bill also establishes an Office of Science and Technology, with an accompanying Acceleration Fund, Steering Group, and Coordination Committee.

In addition to the cabinet-level department, the bill would create a National Office for Combating Terrorism in the Executive Office of the President. The director of this office would be subject to Senate confirmation. This office, in several ways, mirrors the existing Office of Homeland Security:

- The Director, National Office for Combating Terrorism is responsible for overall development of the national strategy. The Secretary, National Homeland Security is responsible for portions of that strategy dealing with border security, critical infrastructure protection, emergency preparation and response, and the integration of state and local efforts with federal efforts.
- The National Office for Combating Terrorism coordinates the development of a comprehensive annual budget for all programs and activities dealing with terrorism, with the advice of the Secretary, Department of National Homeland Security.
- The Secretary and the Director would co-chair the National Combating Terrorism and Homeland Security Council.

### **The Department of Homeland Security<sup>2</sup>**

The mission of the Department of Homeland Security is to protect the United States of America. The new cabinet-level department will have four divisions:

- The Border and Transportation Security Division would unify authority over major federal security operations related to US borders, territorial waters, and transportation systems.
- The Emergency Preparedness and Response Division would oversee federal government assistance in the domestic disaster preparedness training of first responders and would coordinate the government's disaster response efforts.

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<sup>2</sup> Statement by President George W. Bush, June 6, 2002, [www.whitehouse.gov/deptofhomeland](http://www.whitehouse.gov/deptofhomeland).

- The Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Countermeasures Division would lead the federal government's efforts in preparing for and responding to the full range of terrorist threats involving weapons of mass destruction.
- The Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Division would fuse and analyze intelligence and be responsible for comprehensively evaluating vulnerabilities.

The creation of the Department will not mean the end of the need for interagency coordination on homeland security issues for the White House. The White House Office of Homeland Security and the Homeland Security Council will continue to advise the President, and coordinate the interagency process to combat terrorism.

The key components of both H.R. 4660 and the President's proposal are similar. Each proposal establishes a cabinet-level agency, and allows for a White House Office of Homeland Security. H.R. 4660 would require Senate confirmation of the director of the White House Office of Homeland Security. The President's proposal is more sweeping than H.R. 4660 and incorporates over 20 government activities into a single department totaling 170,000 people.

## **WITNESS LIST**

### **Panel I**

(A.M. Session)

**The Honorable Mac Thornberry (TX-13)**

US House of Representatives

**The Honorable Jane Harman (CA-36)**

US House of Representatives

**The Honorable Jim Gibbons (NV-2)**

US House of Representatives

**The Honorable Ellen O. Tauscher (CA-10)**

US House of Representatives

**The Honorable Joseph Lieberman (D-CT)**

US Senate

**The Honorable Arlen Specter (R-PA)**

US Senate

### **Panel II**

(A.M. Session)

**The Honorable Warren Rudman**

Co-Chairman

US Commission on National Security/21<sup>st</sup> Century

**Mr. Norman R. Augustine (invited)**

Commissioner

US Commission on National Security/21<sup>st</sup> Century

**Panel III**  
(P.M. Session)

**Admiral Thomas Collins**  
Commandant  
United States Coast Guard  
Department of Transportation

**Mr. Bruce Baughman**  
Director  
Office of National Preparedness  
Federal Emergency Management Agency

**Mr. John Varrone**  
Assistant Commissioner  
Office of Investigations  
US Customs  
Department of the Treasury

**Mr. Robert Acord**  
Administrator  
Animal and Plant  
Health Inspection Service  
Department of Agriculture

**Mr. John Tritak**  
Director  
Critical Infrastructure Assurance Office  
Bureau of Industry Security  
Department of Commerce

**Representatives have been invited from the**  
Immigration and Naturalization Service,  
US Border Patrol, and  
National Infrastructure Protection Center  
Department of Justice